



### Every little bit helps

Lieutenant Ray Braddock of the Salvation Army is shown receiving a \$500 cheque from John Lawrence, second vice-president of Branch 80 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Midland. The cheque went to help with the expenses encountered by the Salvation Army over the Christmas holidays.

## These new rules of the road you should know now

by ALLAN K. McLEAN MPP SIMCOE EAST

Two amendments to the Highway Traffic Act became law last month. One requires motorists to keep their headlights on 30 minutes after sunrise, and to turn

them on 30 minutes before sunset, while the other effects the situation when drivers can stop their vehicles on any highway or road.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications has gathered evidence from

our province, and the experience of governments elsewhere, that indicates the use of headlights during the daytime helps reduce accidents. The record shows that when motorists drive with their headlights on, other automobiles, cyclists and pedestrians have greater warning of their approach.

As a result, driving with headlights on is said to reduce accidents, especially multiple vehicle collisions.

All provincial transport ministers have agreed to extend the "lights on" period from coast to coast. In each province this period has been extended by one hour in the morning and the evening when the glare of the sun, and the number of vehicles on the road, are at their peak.

It's a good idea to turn your lights on when driving into work, and when driving home in the evening. Not only is it the law, but mounting evidence shows that you will help prevent an accident.

This change in the Highway Traffic Act does not effect the law that requires drivers to turn on their headlights when visibility is less than 150 metres.

Another amendment that is now the law of the roadway states that school bus drivers must have a clear view 125 metres in both directions from their vehicle before they can stop on any highway or road. The same law currently applies to all other motorists.

This amendment is just plain common sense. Despite their bright yellow colour, buses can be hidden from approaching motorists on a windy road. It just makes sense that no unnecessary risks be taken with the safety of school buses.

## Whittington accepts post with Huronia Historical Parks



by MURRAY MOORE

After more than 12 years of producing a syndicated weekly newspaper column, Shirley Whittington is retiring. Her Column has been a staple of the Midland Times since its first issue, and a regular feature of the Penetanguishene Citizen and of the Elmvalle Lance.

This week the Midland resident declared that having space every week in a newspaper was a personal privilege. She did admit that having to produce a column every seven days was on occasion a "pain in the neck."

Her column, syndicated by Miller Services of Toronto, through its life appeared in a range of 16 to 20 newspapers. The column which appears in this newspaper on Jan. 23 will be her last column.

Her column came to the attention of Miller Services because a neighbour, Helen Redman, was in hospital in Toronto recovering from open heart surgery.

The person in the bed next to Redman asked her why she was laughing; she was reading a Whittington column in the Midland Times. The other patient in the hospital room was a Miller Services employee.

On Monday, Whittington started in her new job with Huronia Historical Parks as a Public relations officer. She worked last summer by contract at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, assisting in the preparation for the visit of Pope John Paul II.

Fellow columnist William Smiley, also for Midland, was a source of encouragement, she said. "I am pleased to be on the same page."

Shirley Whittington is the wittiest columnist in Canada, in Smiley's opinion, and a columnist with one of the widest variety of topics she deems her writing so clear, so sharp. It has been great to have her there. It's been a challenge personally to appear on the same page. She has made me stay on my toes.

"I know that she will be missed very much" by her readers, he said.

"It's the end of a great syndicated columnist."

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